

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**FIRST READING:** Acts 2:14,36-41.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 23.

### RESPONSE:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me;  
he revives my soul. **R**
2. He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley of  
the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R**
3. You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R**
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending. **R**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Peter 2:20-25.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own, and my own know me. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL:** John 10:1-10.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 27 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42; John 10:11-18

"Every step, every effort, every test, every fall and every recovery has a sense within God's design for salvation, as He wants life – not death – and joy – not pain – for His people." – Pope Francis

### Tue 28 Apr (St Peter Chanel, PrM)

Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87; John 10:22-30

St Peter Chanel (1803–1841), was a Marist missionary and martyr in Oceania. He is known for saying: "Let my life be the seed; if it must be buried, let it bloom in faith".

### Wed 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena, VD

Acts 12:24–13:5; Psalm 67; John 12:44-50

St Catherine of Siena is renowned for her intense focus on divine love, truth, and transforming the world through faith. She said: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire".

### Thu 30 Apr OUR LADY, MOTHER OF AFRICA

Acts 1:12-14; Resp: Lk 1:46-55; John 2:1-11

*O Mother, walk among your people as you once walked the dusty roads of Nazareth. Bring healing to the wounded, courage to the fearful, and unity to divided hearts. Let your Son's light shine over Africa.*

### Fri 1 May (St Joseph the Worker)

Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2; John 14:1-6

"St Joseph belongs to the working-class, and he bore the burdens of poverty for himself and the Holy Family, whose tender and vigilant head he was." – Pope Pius XI.

### Sat 2 May St Athanasius, BD

Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98; John 14:7-14

"It is we who were the cause of His taking human form, and for our salvation that in His great love He was both born and manifested in a human body." – St Athanasius

### Sun 3 May 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33; John 14:1-12

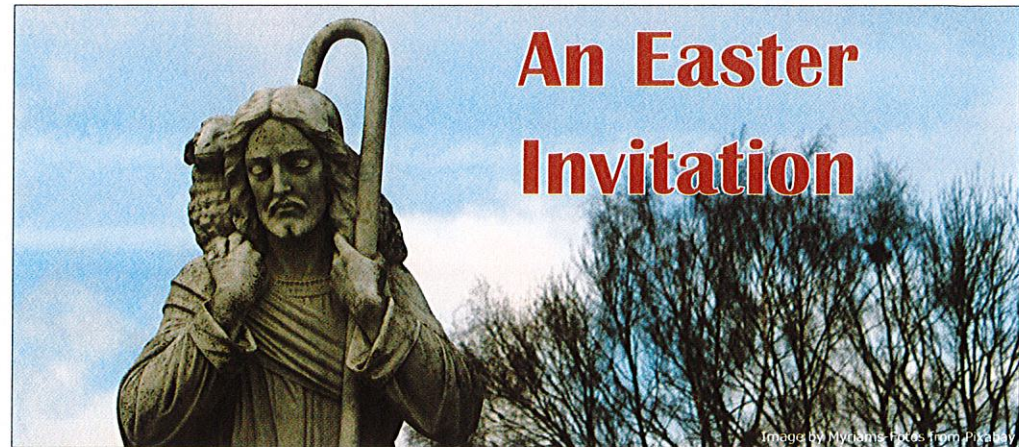
"If on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, ... a light dimmed or a dream shattered, open your heart with amazement to the message of Easter: 'Do not be afraid, he is risen!'" – Pope Francis

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)  
Pr=Priest; M=Martyr; V=Virgin; D=Doctor; B=Bishop

# Catholic Link

## RESURRECTION IS A VERB

4th Sunday of Easter • Year A  
Divine Office: Week IV • 26 April 2026



# An Easter Invitation

Does God still invite people to particular ways of life? Our Catholic tradition gives a resounding yes to this question. And naturally, God's invitations are infinite, as God is infinite. From eternity, we are called into existence by God. We are called into the Christian family. We are called into the Catholic Church. And each of us experiences God's invitation in multiple situations and at different times during the course of our lives.

In the early Church St Paul noticed a pattern or template which shaped all God's invitations: all God's calls were stamped with the motif of "dying and rising". The exemplar of this motif was the death and resurrection of Jesus himself.

Writing to the Philippians Paul wrote "All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death" (3:10). Again, in 2 Corinthians 4:10: "we carry with us in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus, too, may always be seen in our body".

We should not be surprised at this pattern since it is all around us. In nature and the seasons, in the plant and animal world, life itself experiences dying and rising. As for us, Peter puts it clearly in our second reading today: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24).

In the Liturgy of this, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, it is the custom of the Church to connect Jesus' self-identification as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep,

with the graced pattern of dying and rising in Christ.

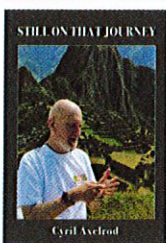
All God's invitations call us to holiness; but the variety of ways and means in response to this call are richly varied yet all stamped with the pattern of Jesus' own death and resurrection.

Today's particular focus is on the call to share the ministerial priesthood of Christ. As it is lived in the Church today, a vocation to the priesthood usually begins with an attraction to that way of life; but attraction is not enough. More importantly there must be an aptitude for a life of total service, an ability to sustain many times of dying to self, and a human and Christian maturity. A shepherd needs to guard, protect and watch over the flock. To be a good pastor (which literally means shepherd) means guarding, protecting and watching over not only one's parishioners, but being alert, with empathy, to all who are seeking and searching for Jesus, whether they are fully aware of that or not.

Finally, we notice a vital question in the first reading: "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter's answer to that question holds a clue to our answer: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

To follow Jesus in any vocation requires humility, a serious commitment to prayer, the freedom to seek advice, and most of all, the prayerfully discerned promptings of the Holy Spirit.

As you read this book, you will find yourself walking alongside Cyril on his journey, laughing with him, crying with him, asking him questions, or just listening to him. You will trip up in disbelief as you read about his achievement of climbing Machu Picchu in Peru. You will stumble at some of the challenges he has had to face, or skip with delight at his humorous descriptions of certain incidents experienced as a Deafblind person – Larry Kaufmann CSsR.



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 Parish Secretary: Judy Joseph  
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Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs No Mass	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00	Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: "St Patrick's Catholic Church" Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: **021 095 612** (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our "Society of St Vincent de Paul" helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

We pray for William Van Schalkwyk and Sr Stephany Thiel who have died: may they rest in peace and rise in glory to live in joy in the kingdom forever.

**Please note that this coming Friday 1 May is First Friday, a public holiday. Mass will be at 8.00am as usual but there will be no evening mass or Holy Hour and Benediction.**

There will be no Divine Mercy chaplet this coming Friday 1 May as it is a public holiday.

Saint Vincent de Paul will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses this coming weekend Saturday 2 May and Sunday 3 May.

Mothers' Day Raffle

Catechism raffle tickets are on sale after mass, from the parish office and catechism children. R10 a ticket. Prizes can be seen in the parish office. Please support this parish fund raising venture.

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.



*The shepherd calls his own sheep by name. (John 10:3)*

Good Shepherd Sunday often brings bucolic scenes to mind. Picture a well-groomed shepherd, crook in hand, seated peacefully in lush, green pastures, surrounded by docile sheep. It's beautiful, isn't it?

But such an image falls short on two counts. First, shepherd and flock are often dirty and decidedly not peaceful. Second, Jesus called himself a "shepherd" as a rebuke to the Jewish leaders who had just rejected him and cast out a man he had cured of blindness. A true shepherd, Jesus told them, knows his sheep well and leads them with care. And Jesus, the good shepherd, goes so far that he "lays down his life for the sheep".

We can read Jesus' words here as a course correction for his opponents, but we can learn something for ourselves as well. For we are all shepherds for God's people in one way or another. We are all called to care for his people by following in Jesus' footsteps. Our "flock" may include our children, our parents, or our catechism class. We may be quiet shepherds welcoming a new family at church or helping a fellow worker. But no matter who is in our flock, we need to remember that the sheep belong to Jesus and not to us. He treasures each one of them and wants us to reflect his own love and self-sacrifice.

So ask yourself, "How well do I know my sheep? Do I know the names of my fellow workers or parishioners? Do I know the challenges my loved ones are facing?" Sometimes we are so busy with our own affairs that we overlook the hurt, weariness, or fear in someone right next to us. But following Jesus' example, we can set aside our concerns, "call them by name," and listen to their needs. Perhaps we can even lead them to a place of peace. That's one small way to be a shepherd for God's sheep.

*"Jesus, help me to lay down my life for your sheep today."*